

December 6, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification

Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Mad River Slough Pipeline Support Repair

Humboldt County

On October 31, 2002, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region received a request for Water Quality Certification from the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District pursuant to administrative regulations and Federal Clean Water Act Section 401. The application covers replacement of damaged wood piling with steel piling used for support of two water distribution pipes across the Mad River Slough

The proposed project entails replacement of 62 damaged wood pilings with 64 steel and concrete pilings. The pilings support two water distribution pipelines across the Mad River Slough. A mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project has been adopted. The MND considered potential impacts on fisheries, threatened and endangered species, and potential alternatives for the project. The tidewater goby, a federally listed endangered species, is not present within the project area. The project has been designed and mitigated to prevent adverse impacts. For a complete discussion, see the *Initial Environmental Study for the Rehabilitation of the Mad River Slough Pipeline Crossing date May 10, 1999*, and associated Corps of Engineers letters.

Existing pilings will be removed below the mud line, resulting in no net fill or loss of habitat. Temporary access will be along an existing road or by barge. Temporary access may entail laying matting in wetland areas to avoid damage to those areas. A monitoring program to assess post-construction impacts will be implemented as a condition of the project. Construction will occur between June, 2003 and October 15, 2003. While it is anticipated that construction should be completed during one season, if necessary, the project may be completed the following year between June 15 and October 15, 2004.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869. Staff will consider all comments received during a comment period that ends 21 days after the date this notice is posted. For further information please contact Richard Azevedo at (707) 576-2679.